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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Political Information: Soviet Repatriation,
Tsingtao

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Shortly after the arrival [redacted] from Tientsin with repatriation orders for 31 USSR citizens [redacted] Note: Incorrectly reported previously as 32), a registration of all Soviet citizens desiring repatriation was held on 11, 12, and 13 July at the Soviet Club. Vice Consul Rachkovski from the Tientsin Soviet Consulate (also recently reported as vice-chairman of the Tientsin Soviet Citizens Association) arrived a few days earlier to officiate.

2. Altogether, 416 Soviet citizens of the local colony applied for return to the USSR. [redacted] Note: Other reports gave this figure as 521. The difference is believed to represent out-of-town Soviet citizens who also registered in Tsingtao). Conspicuously lacking from the roster of applicants were the wealthy Jewish members of the colony. [redacted] Among those who did sign up, many have since admitted privately that they did so only as a face-saving measure, and that they have no actual intention of returning to the USSR.

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☐ 3. Posted in the Club during the registration was an information bulletin from Moscow which purported to give the numbers of Soviet citizens in other countries who desired repatriation.

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4. Among the many questions asked in the registration form were these:

(a) When did you leave the USSR?

(b) Why did you leave the USSR?

(c) Where did you come from in the USSR?

(d) Where do you wish to go in the USSR?

25X1 [] Note: This question is considered by many Russians, Soviet citizens, and emigres alike, to be entirely immaterial. It is generally agreed among adherents of this view that no repatriate will have a hand in choosing his new home.)

(f) What occupation do you desire?

(f) When do you wish to return to China?

25X1 [] Note: This also was generally regarded cynically. Only a handful even bothered to answer it.)

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5. On 20 July, a committee was formed for the purpose of aiding financially needy Soviet prospective repatriates. Heading the committee is N. Brusienko. Other members are A. Kostin (slated for repatriation with first group) and A. Yuriev. A sub-committee will be under the leadership of M. Danilevskaya. A social aid sub-committee will be under the leadership of A. Gerasimov. A third sub-committee will handle financial affairs. On 21 July, Rachkovski organized a party for 50 well-to-do members of the Soviet community. Following a fund-soliciting talk by him during the party, approximately US \$2500 was raised for aid to needy repatriates.
6. The first group is scheduled to sail to Vladivostok on the SS GOGOL, which leaves Tientsin on approximately 2 August. However, it appears unlikely that they will leave on schedule, since the Chinese police have held up issuance of exit visas to them, pending receipt of Nanking authorization. This group may be able to make the GOGOL in time for the next trip after this one, later in August. Note: The press reports that the GOGOL will leave Tientsin on 11 August.) Note: The sailing date was 13 August. Clearances for their entry into the USSR came from Moscow; henceforth, however, Soviet Consul Kurdyukov in Tientsin will have authority to issue these clearances. Note: The first group now totals 33, as V. Volgas and one other person have been added since the first list of 31 was published.)

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